



Jenna Ditzel hikes to a high point in the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness in Northern Idaho and got a bonus wildlife sighting with a shaggy mountain goat checking out the view nearby. (photo by Julie Wilkinson)

## FOUR NEW STAFFERS JOIN THE TEAM FOR THE IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

By Steve Stuebner

The Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission has had a number of positions turn over recently due to people retiring or moving on to other opportunities.

In this issue of *Conservation the Idaho Way*, we'd like to introduce four new members of the SWC staff, all of whom are Natural Resource Conservationists. One of them is based in the Boise office, and the

others are serving Northern Idaho based in Coeur d'Alene, Eastern Idaho based in American Falls, and the Upper Salmon River Basin area for the Custer and Lemhi districts, based in Twin Falls.

### Jenna Ditzel

Natural Resource Conservationist, based in Coeur d'Alene.

Ditzel started working for the Commission in May 2023.

### Tell us a little about yourself

"I was born and raised in Boise, and I left Idaho to go to Colorado State University to get my undergraduate degree in Natural Resource Management. During this time, I pursued my passion for zero waste practices and joined the CSU Zero Waste Team, helping to divert trash waste at community and school-sponsored events. I also worked for a local composting company, and as a research study assistant,



conducting field research to study the effects of disturbances on Colorado bee populations. Shortly after wrapping up my degree, I worked for a mango farm in Cambodia as a product development intern, helping to coordinate a brand launch of dried fruit from the farm.”

**Why were you interested in working for the Commission?**

“I was eager to join SWC to implement conservation projects on the ground and participate in community outreach events.

“I believe that managing our land to enhance soil, water, and air quality is crucial to ensuring that our environment stays healthy and so do we. I enjoy working with different landowners and agency partners to effectively accomplish a shared responsibility of environmental stewardship.

“The four conservation districts up here implement a significant amount of streambank protection projects and lead a variety of educational activities. I am lucky to be working with them and sharing a mutual passion for conserving our natural resources and encouraging others to do the same.”

**What do you like to do for fun?**

“Growing up in Idaho, a paradise for outdoor activities, I was inspired from an early age to engage in hobbies outside. I love to ski, hike, backpack, and swim in as many natural water bodies as possible!

“I love skiing so much that I teach at Lookout Pass on Sunday’s, hoping to encourage others to learn and get more comfortable on the mountain.

“I love to share my excitement for the outdoors with my friends, family, and boyfriend (Steven). Idaho is a natural wonder, and it overwhelms me to think about all the beautiful places I have yet to explore!”



*Dani Roseman running on mountain trails in the French Alps as part of a women’s retreat. (photo courtesy Dani Roseman)*

**Dani Roseman**

Natural Resource Conservationist serving Division IV plus Custer and Lemhi Districts, based in Jerome. She lives in Twin Falls.

Roseman started working for the Commission on Feb. 3, 2025.

**Tell us a little about yourself**

“I grew up in Pennsylvania where I received a bachelor’s degree in environmental biology. After college I was working random 3rd shift jobs at manufacturing plants. I was struggling to find a career path in PA, so I took a recreation technician job working for The Great Basin Institute under AmeriCorp in Wells, Nev. I was

based out of the Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest Service Office. My husband, Birk, was working out of that office

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*Maddy Vargovich with a pigmy goat at her family ranch near American Falls. (Courtesy Maddy Vargovich)*

as a Rangeland Specialist. I finished my position with GBI and decided to move to Eureka, Calif., for Birk to pursue his Forest Service career.

"In Eureka, I worked for California Fish and Wildlife on their recreational fisheries survey crew, and I also worked for the City of Eureka at their recreation center and for their afterschool programs.

"My husband was offered a promotion to Mackay, Idaho working for the Salmon-Challis National Forest. I was able to find a seasonal position working under their fisheries department. I got to do trail maintenance, electroshock streams, fish mountain lakes, and whitewater raft on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River.

"While I enjoyed that seasonal lifestyle, I knew that I needed to

start finding a career, so I landed a full-time position with Clear Springs Foods working in their brood stock hatchery based out of Mackay.

"Shortly after taking that position, I found out I was pregnant with my first born and we decided to move to Vernal, Utah to start our family. Birk took a job with the Ashley National Forest, and I began my career in Teaching. I became a High School Science teacher there, teaching biology and wildlife biology. I taught for about a year and a half in Utah and then we moved to Florida where I taught for about 5 years. In Florida I

developed the Natural Resource and Forestry Program at the high school, teaching Ag-science, forestry, and AP Environmental Studies.

"During our time in Florida our family grew to five! We now have a 6-year-old, 4-year-old and 2.5-year-old. My husband decided to switch agencies and take a position with the Bureau of Land Management working out of Twin Falls. We loaded up some stuff and drove across the country with our 3 kids and our dog in our Subaru and made it safely to Twin Falls. And now here we are, back in Idaho!"

#### **What do you like to do for fun?**

"As a family we really enjoy biking and going out for hikes. I am an avid runner and have completed several half marathons, one trail marathon and a 50k. I also enjoy painting and

drawing when I have the time. We are excited about the change in topography coming from Florida!"

## **Maddy Vargovich**

Natural Resources Conservationist, based in American Falls. She started with the Commission in September 2024. She serves six conservation districts (Power, South Bingham, Oneida, Bear Lake, Caribou, and Franklin) in Division V.

#### **Tell us a little about yourself**

"I grew up on a small dairy and crop farm in Southern Idaho. I was very active in 4-H and FFA growing up, doing a wide variety of projects, from showing sheep and goats, to sewing and woodworking.

"I received the American FFA degree in 2019. I attended the College of Southern Idaho and then transferred to Utah State University, where I received a bachelor's degree in agribusiness. I am now working towards a master's degree in agricultural communications from Texas Tech University.

"After graduating from Utah State, I moved back to Idaho and began working as a research assistant at a crop research company. I then got a job with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, as a senior investigator, in the Plant Industries Division."

#### **Why were you interested in working for the Commission?**

"I have been passionate about agriculture since a young age and it has been my goal to help other agriculturalists. Doing conservation work for the SWC is a way to accomplish this goal. I look forward to working with numerous landowners to improve their operations, to ensure the land is of great quality for generations to come."



**What do you like to do for fun?**

“I have been married for about a year and a half. My husband and I have 3 dogs and 1 cat. We live on a cattle ranch, where my husband raises Black Angus cattle. We have started raising registered Pygmy goats as well. In my free time, I enjoy kayaking, camping, 4-wheeling, skiing, reading, crafting, traveling, and spending time with my family.”

**Sarah Quidgeon**

Natural Resources Conservationist, based in Boise. She serves the Ada, Bruneau, Canyon, Elmore and Owyhee conservation districts. She joined the Commission in January 2024.

**Tell us a little about yourself**

“I am a recent graduate from Boise State University. I graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies and a minor in Biology.

“Before working for the Commission, I worked for the City of Boise at the Jim Hall Foothills Nature Center as an Environmental Educator. During my time there I became very familiar with the native plant and animal populations of the area and worked to create and implement science lessons for students as young as preschool and as old as middle school.”

**Why were you interested in working for the Commission?**

“Taking care of the environment always has been a passion of mine



*Sarah Quidgeon on the summit of Mount Borah. (Courtesy Sarah Quidgeon)*

since I was a little girl. Growing up I was taught that agriculture and environmentalism don’t mix, when in reality, they are deeply intertwined. The relationship between agriculture and conservation is so important, and I’m so excited that I get to aid that relationship with the Commission in a non-regulatory way.”

**What do you like to do for fun?**

“Outside of work, I like to be outside

as much as possible whether it be riding my bike, walking, running, even roller skating. When the weather gets bad I like to go the movies and play with my cat Sylvester.”

*Steve Stuebner writes for Conservation the Idaho Way on a regular basis.*

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